

## Platte River Recreation Access Subcommittee

### Annual Meeting Minutes April 17, 2019

- Cyanide poison signs- Currently signs are present on PRRIP lands warning of predator poisoning that occurs on PRRIP lands. PRRIP users are concerned for the safety of their pets (e.g. hunting dogs) who may ingest them onsite. EDO indicated that poisoning is no longer occurring and the signs will be removed.
- Coyote/Furbearer hunting- NGPC receives several questions every year regarding whether hunting coyotes is an allowed activity. Anonymous responses from the surveys indicate individuals are harvesting coyotes incidentally (likely when targeting other allowed game). The subcommittee discussed adding coyote/furbearing species to the list of allowed huntable species. Concern over the use of predator calls and trapping was discussed. The subcommittee recommends the LAC consider whether coyote/furbearer hunting should be added to the list of species (allowed to be harvested) and what parameters should be put on it (allowed as incidental species, no predator calls or trapping, etc.)
- Area Closed Signs- PRRIP and PRRIP modified its whooping crane season (consistent with most recent biological opinion) which resulted in a change to PRRIP closure dates and subsequent modification of access signs. The new signs appear to be causing some confusion and users expressed concern after registering to use properties, then showing up seeing signs that say "area closed...". The subcommittee agreed to add a clarifying statement on the website and/or permission slip and when new signs are ordered, the verbiage would change to be consistent with previous signs though incorporating corrected new whooping crane dates. As signs are replaced or at high traffic areas such as parking lots (as appropriate), new signs will be used to eliminate confusion.
- Discussed the impact of changing the total active reservation number from five to three (occurred in 2018). The subcommittee agreed that three reservations seemed appropriate and will proceed using this for 2019.
- Discussed access to the river channel on all program properties in light of PRRIP science relating to the lack of tern and plover use of in-channel portions of river for nesting. Many properties currently have "limited" or no access to the river during some or all portions of the year. The subcommittee agreed that restricting access to the channel during this limited access period (tern and plover nesting season) is no longer needed. Opening them during summer adds valuable opportunities for education, outreach, and public recreation for users young and old. The subcommittee recommends removal of the "limited access" period for riverine portions of the property. Properties where this applies are Area A, D, E, H, I, and P. Site closures may still occur on a case by case basis if warranted during any time of the year due to target species presence.
- The subcommittee evaluated the existing suite of properties with river access and recommended adding riverine access to the center of the channel at the following locations: Area J, N, G, L. Area L is proposed to have the western portion opened for 2019 and the remainder of the land portion of the property opened for access.

- Users indicate the properties containing honey bee operations are a nuisance or safety concern. As a safety precaution, the subcommittee agreed it would be beneficial to increase awareness about the potential for bees to be on certain properties and for users to take precautions if they have allergies or other concerns. It was recommended that language be added to the website/permission slip regarding the presence of bees.
- Discussed comments requesting the dates for the Rifle Lottery Access get moved earlier. The subcommittee agreed that moving the dates earlier could be beneficial and recommends this change be made by NGPC. The lottery application is proposed for August in 2019 and the drawing in September.
- Discussed Cottonwood Ranch Area B. This property will remain closed during the 2019 access period. The broad-scale recharge project is scheduled to be completed this summer; however, new signage, fencing and re-vegetation is needed prior to opening Area B.
- The EDO has received requests to allow individuals to scuba-dive within the Off-channel Sand and Water Areas. At this time, off-channel sand and water areas are not open to the public at any time under the PRRA and as such, the subcommittee agreed it was appropriate to not allow scuba diving.
- The public comment period ended; no public comments were received this year concerning the previous year's implementation.
- Discussed adding a new landowner member to the PRRA subcommittee. EDO will investigate potential candidates for representation and get back to the group.